

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Romans 5:15-21

Lesson #21

Positional Truth

05/26/2019

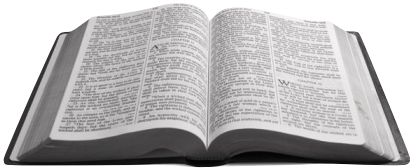
What does it mean to be human?

To be true to yourself
as one who is born
in the image and
likeness of God.



1

How to read the Old Testament



What does it mean
to be human?



2

To be human is to be holy.

Created in the image
of animals

Created in the image
of God

Genesis 2:7

"God formed man of dust
from the ground, and
breathed into his nostrils the
breath of life; and man
became a living being."

Genesis 1:27

"God created man in His
own image, in the image of
God He created him;"

Stewards of the
rest of God's creation

Separated from the
world unto God

Our human distinctiveness is tied to
the image of God that we bear.

3

The O.C. and N.C. teach the
same message with respect
to the God / Man relationship.

Holiness

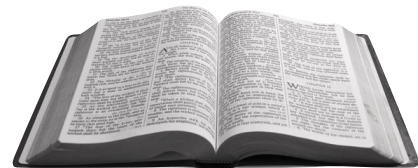
(holy, saint, sanctify, sanctuary)

"to be set apart to God"

**Bearing the image of God
is the essence of Holiness.**

4

How to read the Old Testament



What does it mean
to be a **holy**
human?



5

O.C. disciples of Jesus wanted to know:

1. **The mystery of Election** - Who is the true Israel or the chosen people of God?
2. **The mystery of Holiness** - How could a holy and just God justify Gentile sinners without the Law and its temple sacrifices?
3. **The mystery of the Cross** - How could a crucified Messiah save God's elect people?



The Apostles address these issues in the N.C. Epistles.

6

Holiness was at the core of the Old Covenant's theology

Matthew 5

"17 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. 19 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 **For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.**"

The path to holiness was the **Law**.

7

Paul's commentary on Jesus' teaching -

"We have a problem!"

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

8

The O.C. and N.C. differ with respect to how to acquire the holiness that God demands.

Old Covenant

Orthopraxy

Law

"Do"

New Covenant

Orthodoxy

Faith

"Done"

9

Ephesians 2:8-10

Faith

"⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

Fruit

"¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

10

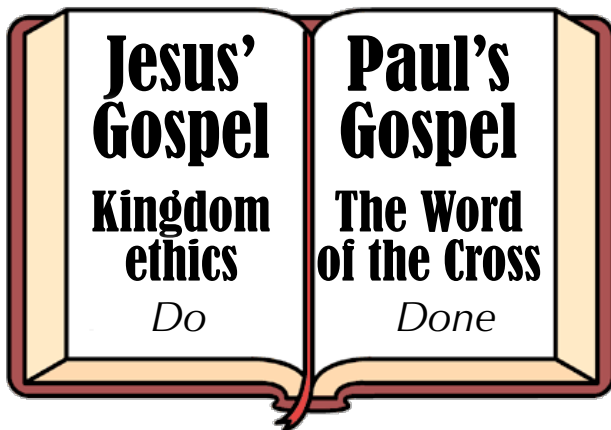
Three stumbling blocks to Gospel truths

1. Confusing the New **and Old covenants**
2. Confusing the work of Christ **and the work of the Spirit**



11

Jesus and Paul



The order is consistent and significant

12

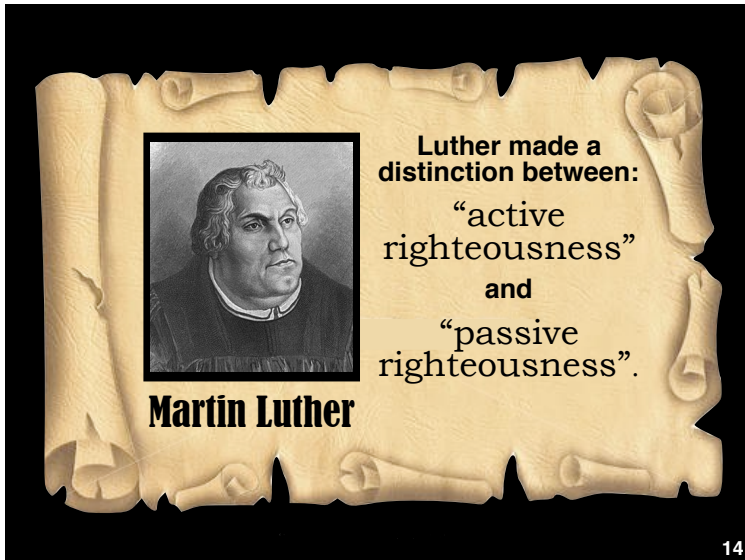
Holiness

Positional

Practiced

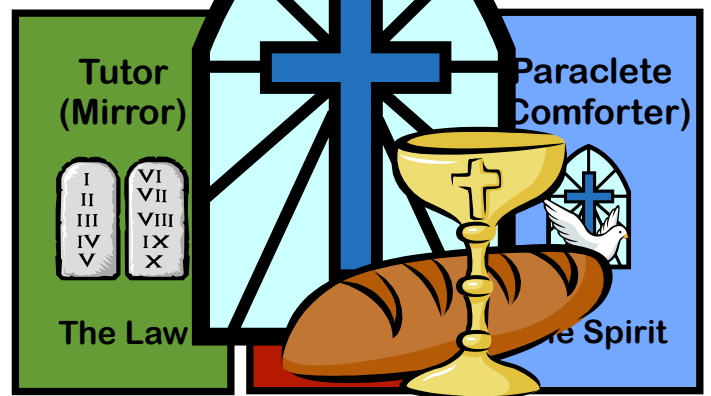


13



14

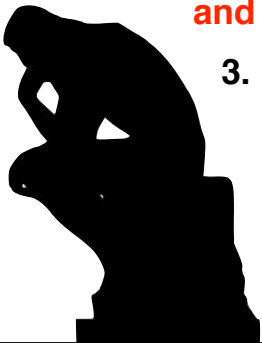
Don't confuse ministries of the Law and the Spirit.



15

Three stumbling blocks to Gospel truths

1. Confusing the New and Old covenants
2. Confusing the work of Christ and the work of the Spirit
3. Confusing positional holiness through the Imputed righteousness by faith and practiced holiness through love



16

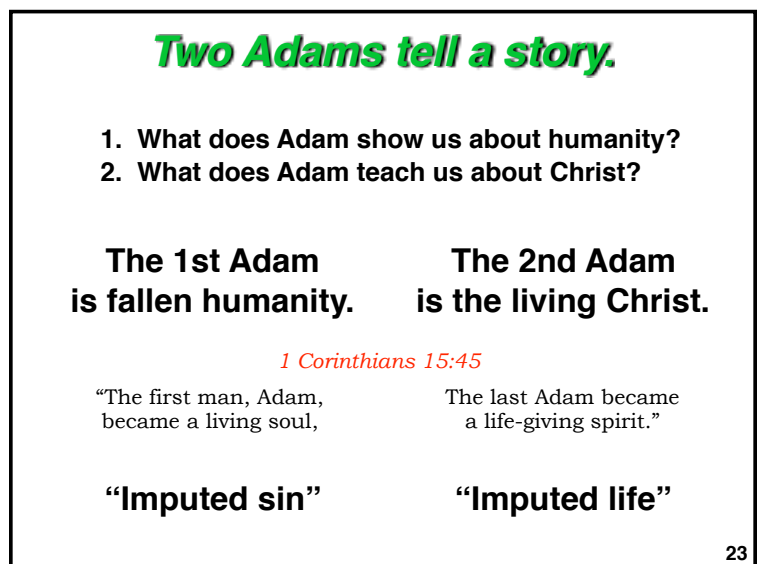
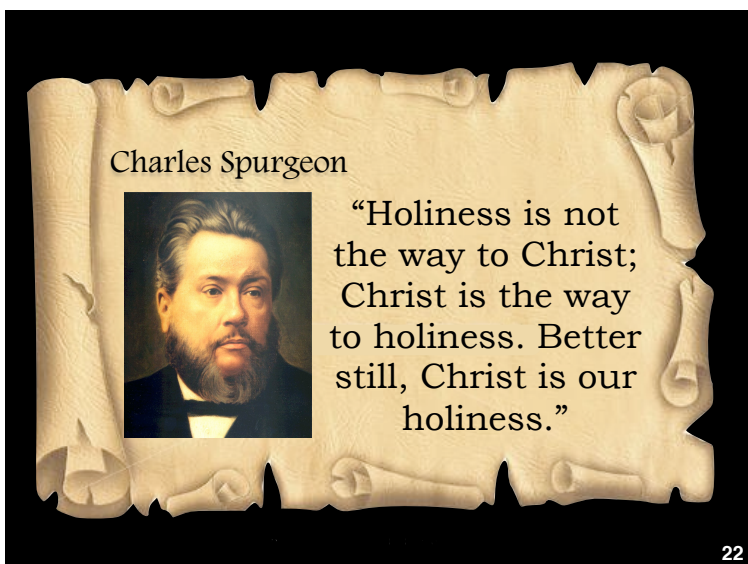
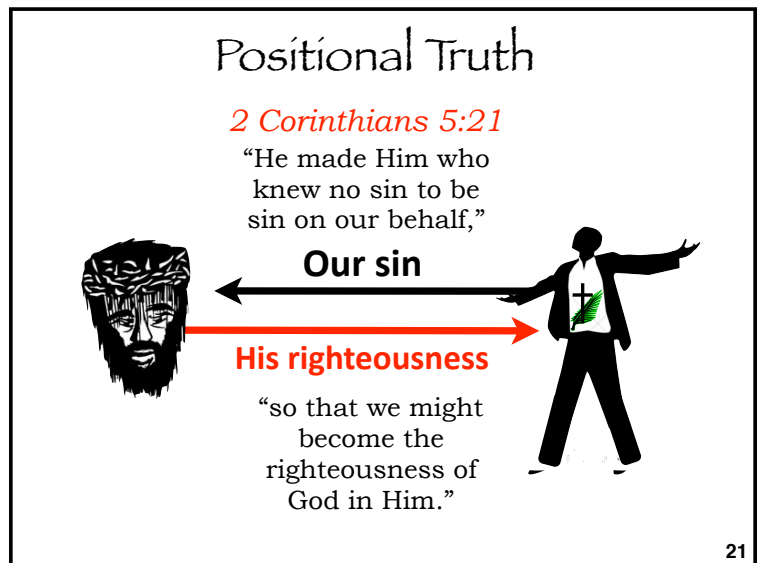
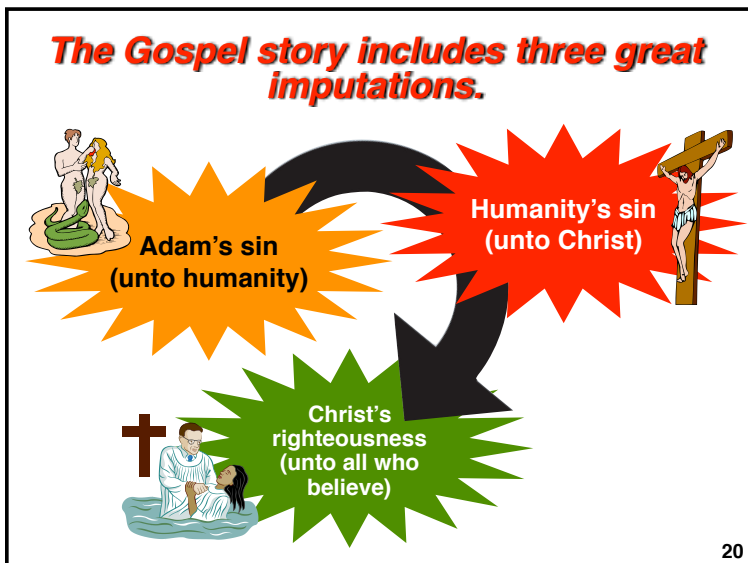
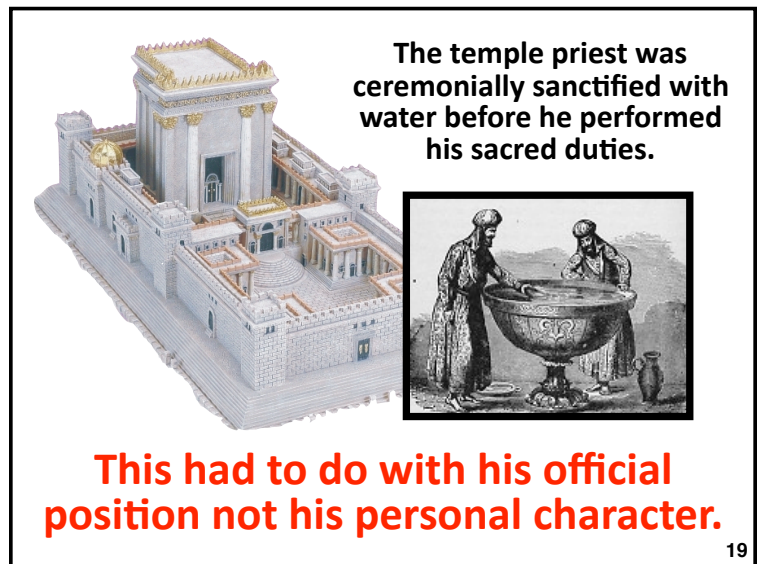
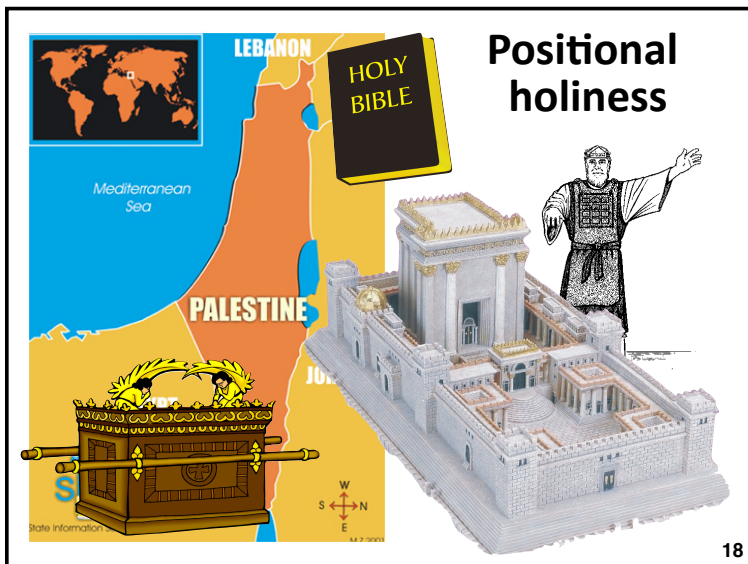
Genesis 15:6

"Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."

Imputation

- The attribution of a value to something that ordinarily does not have that value.
- To "consider" or "see as" so. (It is a mental construct rather than an experiential reality).

17



Romans 5

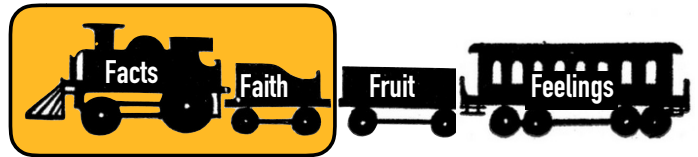
“18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

All who are
in Adam die.

All who are in Christ
are made alive.

24

The Gospel Train



- Facts make the train go
- Faith provides the fuel
- Fruit is the earthly pay load
- Feelings make the ride exciting

Position is about facts and faith.

25

Four kinds of righteousness (holiness)

1. The righteousness of God

This is the perfect, holy, character of God.

2. The righteousness of faith

This is the imputed holiness of Christ.

3. The righteousness of the Spirit

This is the fruit of the Spirit in this life.

4. The “righteousness” of the flesh

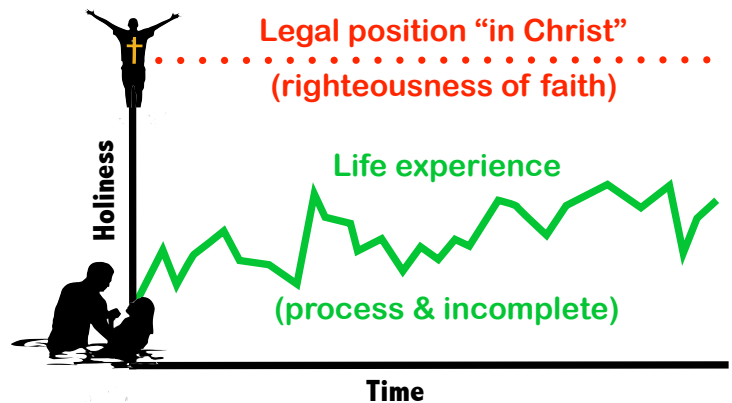
This is the superficial holiness of man.

Isaiah 64:6

“And all our righteous deeds
are like a filthy garment;”

26

The two aspects of righteousness



27

Positional Truth



for me



in, with, & through me

Ephesians 2:8-9

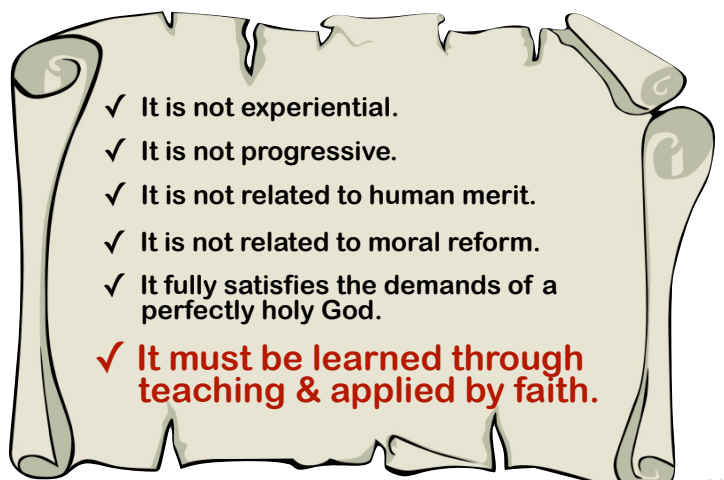
“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

28

Positional truth



- ✓ It is not experiential.
- ✓ It is not progressive.
- ✓ It is not related to human merit.
- ✓ It is not related to moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ **It must be learned through teaching & applied by faith.**

29

The Corinthian church

- ✓ “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, **saints** by calling . . .” *1 Corinthians 1:2*
- ✓ “for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not **walking like mere men.**”
1 Corinthians 3:3

30

Summary

1. Perfect holiness (reflecting the image of God) is demanded of all who would participate in God's kingdom.
2. We are incapable of that holiness apart from the imputation of Christ's righteousness to our account through faith.
3. The imputed righteousness of Christ is reckoned to our account as though we were perfect even when we are experientially imperfect.
4. This is the good news of the Gospel that is symbolized in our baptism and is the basis of our confidence before God.

31

Is God there, is He fair, & does He care?

1. We are all created in the **image of God**.
2. We are all responsible to **be true to ourselves** as image bearers.
3. We are all **frustrated** by the brokenness of ourselves and our world.
4. Jesus is sent as a **gift of grace** to (among other things) impute His righteousness to us by faith.
5. Many have **received Christ by faith** so as to stand before God as a perfect image bearer in Christ.
6. Many others have chosen to **stand before God on their own merit**.
7. God will be perfectly **fair** in His judgment of both.

*No one is forced to receive Christ
but all must bear God's image
to be reconciled to Him!*

32